

statue depicting a Black man on his knees in front of President Lincoln fails to recognize African Americans' agency in pressing for their own emancipation.

Understandably, recently liberated African Americans during the Reconstruction era were grateful for any recognition of their freedom in a country where they still experienced virtually total exclusion from American life. However, even at the time of its unveiling, prominent Black Americans expressed their displeasure with the statue's design, including Frederick Douglass. During his keynote address at the statue's unveiling, Douglass pointedly did not praise the statue. Rather, in a letter to the editor of the National Republican a few days after the unveiling, Douglass expressed his dismay at the statue: "The negro here, though rising, is still on his knees and nude. What I want to see before I die is a monument representing the negro, not couchant on his knees like a four-footed animal, but erect on his feet like a man."

In 2020, Boston removed its replica of the statue and plans to place it in a publicly accessible location where it can be better contextualized. It is time for Congress to place the original statue in a museum, too.

I strongly urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GREG PENCE

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 1, 2023

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I am not recorded for Roll Call No. 95, Roll Call No. 96, Roll Call No. 97, Roll Call No. 98, Roll Call No. 99, and Roll Call No. 100 on Tuesday, January 31, 2023. Since my first day in office, I have been squarely focused on what I was sent here to do: Represent Hoosiers of the 6th Congressional District of Indiana. Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, Congress and the State of Indiana have been laser focused on preventing the spread of COVID-19 and protecting the health of Hoosiers and all Americans. I am proud to have worked across the aisle to pass multiple bipartisan coronavirus relief bills that provided much needed assistance to Hoosiers and small businesses. Unfortunately, the Biden Administration has politicized the COVID-19 pandemic to implement their radical, leftist agenda through unilateral executive action.

I adamantly support H.R. 382, the Pandemic is over Act and H.R. 497, the Freedom for Health Care Workers Act. In September 2022, President Biden said the "pandemic is over," but subsequently decided to extend the Public Health Emergency (PHE) several more times. President Biden has abused the PHE to implement student loan cancellation absent congressional authority, keep students from school, and force vaccine and mask mandates. Regrettably, President Biden compounded workforce shortages by requiring vaccine mandates for federal health care workers, disproportionately hurting rural and underserved communities.

Had I been present I would have voted Yea on Roll Call No. 95 (the Previous Questions), Yea on Roll Call No. 96 (Adoption of H. Res. 75), Nay on Roll Call No. 97 (Motion to Re-

commit), Yea on Roll Call No. 98 (Final Passage of H.R. 497), Nay on Roll Call No. 99 (Motion to Recommit), and Yea on Roll Call No. 100 (Final Passage of H.R. 382).

REMEMBERING THE 1973 VASTER HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL TEAM

HON. BRUCE WESTERMAN

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 1, 2023

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember the 1973 Vaster High School Basketball Team. Vaster High School was in Moscow, Arkansas, in Jefferson County, and at the time, had a population of around 600 people. Although a small community and school, this team had tenacious grit in the State Overall Championship tournament.

Back in 1973, the State of Arkansas decided state champions through an overall state tournament instead of having a state champion by different classifications, as it does today. In a 3-day tournament, Class B Vaster beat Morrilton, a Class AA school on Thursday, then beat Conway, a Class AAA school on Friday, and on Saturday, Vaster faced the Class AAAA, defending state champion, Central High School from Little Rock. It was described as a David versus Goliath matchup going into the game, and everyone expected a blowout win for Central. In the end, Central won the game by only 1 point. Though a heartbreaking loss, Vaster had put itself on the map, had persevered, and exhibited pride in the school, the town, and in the Cinderella run with its first-year head coach and group of fantastic players.

There is an event today honoring the 50th Anniversary of Vasters runner-up bid, and while Vaster High School is no longer in existence, the memory of the School shall always be bright because of the 1973 team who fought Central High for the state title. I would like to finish with naming the members of the 1973 Vaster High School basketball team.

Herbert Pryor (Head Coach), Andrew Carr (Assistant Coach), Cleveland Allen, Erick Biley, Samuel Biley Jr., Reddic Barkins, Rodney Crawford, (Trainer), Jimmy Dade, Carl Evans, James Evans, Tommy Evans, Roy Franklin, Jimmy Gladney, Ronnie Grice (Manager), Homer Jackson, Melvin Jackson, Jacob Jones (Trainer), Charles Petty, Rodney Ryce, Thomas Tarty.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank those who have remembered and are celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the 1973 Vaster High School Basketball Team. These young men will forever be remembered in the history of Arkansas sports.

HONORING MASTER SERGEANT SILVA FOSTER UPON RECEIVING THE DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 1, 2023

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and commend Master Sergeant Silva

Foster of the 349th Air Mobility Wing upon receiving the Distinguished Flying Cross for his service, dedication, and sacrifice during Operation Allies Refuge. He exemplifies the best of America, and his tireless efforts guarantee the safety of all those who call America home.

Last year, the servicemembers of the 349th Air Mobility Wing met a challenge of colossal scale when they played a pivotal role in completing the drawdown of forces from Afghanistan. This command was critical in the largest noncombatant evacuation operation in known history, Operation Allies Refuge, ultimately saving over 124,000 lives. The 349th Air Mobility Wing directly supported the evacuation of nearly 13,000 Afghans while simultaneously managing the security and operations at Hamid Karzai International Airport. I have listened to countless stories from this group of brave men and women that exemplify the character, leadership, and bravery that is cultivated at Travis Air Force Base.

Service records only scratch the surface of the courageous actions performed by the 349th Air Mobility Wing. They put their hearts and lives on the line to save so many. These valiant servicemembers like Master Sergeant Silva Foster epitomize the values of courage and patriotism.

On behalf of a grateful country and all the constituents of California's Eighth Congressional District, I would like to congratulate Master Sergeant Silva Foster of the 349th Air Mobility Wing for receiving the Distinguished Flying Cross and extend my sincere gratitude for his sacrifice and contributions to the defense of this great country.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF MRS. BONNIE BELL MCGOWAN

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 1, 2023

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Mrs. Bonnie Bell McGowan. A beloved member of our community, Mrs. McGowan's life was marked by her love for golf and her unwavering commitment to helping others achieve success through the game.

Shortly before she was born, Mrs. McGowan's parents began managing and operating Pine Needles Lodge and Golf Club. With their home situated on Pine Needles' 18th hole, Mrs. McGowan was heavily exposed to golf in her youth and quickly developed a love for the game. She went on to play at Pinecrest High School, Rollins College, and the University of North Carolina. While traveling with her husband, Pat McGowan, on the PGA tour, she became the president of the PGA Tour Wives Association in the mid-1980s. She later returned home to Pine Needles where she helped carry on her parents' business and worked as a golf instructor. She established her own legacy by becoming the face of Pine Needles and was well known for her thorough and dedicated coaching. In 2016, she became an assistant coach for the Sandhills Community College women's golf team. As proof of her love for the game and true desire to help all succeed on the course, she did not accept pay for her efforts and instead volunteered her time coaching the college team for 6 years. Mrs. McGowan was